

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached new sheet of drawings includes the addition of new FIG. 4. FIG. 4 is added after the existing FIG. 3 in the application.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

New Sheet (1 page)

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed January 17, 2008, the Examiner rejected pending claims 1-31. In this Amendment in Reply, Applicants amend the specification as well as claims 1, 6, 12, and 27. Claims 1-31 remain pending. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following remarks .

Amendments to the Specification and the Drawings

Although Applicants believe the specification and drawings as originally filed enabled the claims prior to amendment, Applicants amend the specification and drawings as indicated above to advance prosecution. Applicants have amended the specification and drawings to include disclosure from U.S. Provisional Application 60/155,667 filed September 22, 1999, which the original specification incorporates by reference in paragraph [0001]. Specifically, Applicants have copied Figure 3 and its description (page 26, line 23 through page 28, line 9). In addition, Applicants have copied the description from page 18, line 18 through page 19, line 22.

No new matter is added.

Claim Amendments – Claims 1, 6, 12, and 27

Although Applicants believe the claims were patentable prior to amendment, Applicants amend the claims as indicated above to advance prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of the same or similar scope to the claims prior to amendment in a continuation or divisional application.

Applicants have amended the independent claims to recite use of a computer-readable data collection. This subject matter is supported by the present disclosure, for example in the description of an "Ontology" on page 5 of U.S. Provisional Application 60/491,422, and in the description of the "meaning-based lexicon" on page 6 et seq. of U.S. Provisional Application 60/491,422, both of which applications were incorporated into the present application by reference. Applicants have amended claims 6 and 12 to correct typographical errors.

No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112: Claims 10, 12, 23, and 26

The Office Action rejected claims 10, 12, 23, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Office Action alleges the specification does not enable “how this determination of ‘strength’ is generated,” (Office Action page 3) with regard to claims 10 and 23. In addition, the Office Action alleges the specification does not enable “how this [probability] is generated,” (Office Action page 5) with regard to claims 13 and 26.

Without conceding that the rejection has merit, Applicants have amended the specification and drawings to explicitly include content from the provisional application as an illustration of how the features at issue are enabled by the present disclosure.

The specification now explicitly describes “determining a strength of relationship between (1) each of the plurality of meanings and (2) the at least one meaning of the identified information,” as recited in Applicants claims 10 and 23. Specifically, new FIG. 4 and its corresponding description teach “how this determination of ‘strength’ is generated.” (Office Action page 3)

The specification as amended teaches “establishing a probability, for each of the plurality of meanings, that the knowledge item be resolved in part to the one of the plurality of meanings,” and “establishing a probability, for the meaning of the identified information, that the knowledge item be resolved in part to the meaning of the identified information,” as recited in Applicants claims 13 and 26. Specifically, the amendment to the specification inserted after original paragraph [0040] teaches “how this [probability] is generated.” (Office Action page 5)

Applicants submit that claims 10, 12, 23, and 26 are enabled under 35 U.S.C. § 112 by the specification, as amended. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 of claims 10, 12, 23, and 26.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claims 1-31

The Office Action rejected claims 1-7 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over an article entitled “Web Advertising” (“McCandless”) in view of an article entitled “Searching the World Wide Web” (“Knoblock”). The Office Action rejected claims 8-13 and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the McCandless reference and

the Knoblock reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,867,799 ("Lang"). The Office Action rejected claims 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the McCandless reference and the Knoblock reference in view of an article entitled "The web as enabling technology for software development and distribution" ("Oreizy"). These rejections are traversed. Claims 1, 14, and 27 are independent.

Applicants' amended claims are patentable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record does not teach or suggest many elements of Applicants' claims. Specifically, the prior art of record does not disclose "determining at least one meaning of the identified information," "determining a plurality of meanings of the knowledge item," and "selecting at least one of the plurality of meanings using the at least one meaning of the identified information," as recited in Applicants' amended claims 1 and 14, and as similarly recited in Applicants' amended claim 27. Nor does any of the references disclose using a computer-readable data collection as recited in the present claims for determining a meaning.

The McCandless reference discloses matching "pertinent advertisements" to information contained in a "self-maintained, online personal profile." (Page 9, column 2, line 39 through column 3, line 5) The Knoblock reference discloses "creat[ing] a list of links to Web documents," (Page 8, column 1, lines 9-24) and "list[ing] documents most closely related to the user's query first." (Page 8, column 3, lines 27-38) The Lang reference discloses "entities of information relevant to the user... are extracted from the data stream using content-based and collaborative filtering." (Column 3, lines 33-43) The Oreizy reference discloses "[k]eyword-based Web indexing." (Page 85, column 2, lines 18-29) Nowhere does the prior art of record teach or suggest any kind of "determining" a "meaning" or "selecting" a "meaning," as recited in Applicants' amended claims 1 and 14, and as similarly recited in Applicants' amended claim 27.

Therefore, Applicants' independent claims 1, 14, and 27, as amended, define patentable subject matter over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of independent claims 1, 14, and 27. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner remove the rejections of claims 2-13, 15-26, and 28-31 each of which depends either directly or indirectly from claims 1, 14, and 27.

After the Office Action set forth the rejections that Applicants have addressed above, the Examiner also restated Applicants' responses to the previous Office Action and commented specifically on some of them. Generally, the previous Office Action did not rely on the Knoblock reference. However, on a few occasions the Examiner in these passages nevertheless stated that "the Office Action stands", referring to the previous Office Action. Applicants submit that, on the contrary, it appears the Examiner has chosen not to maintain any rejection in the previous Office Action since the Knoblock reference was added. In any event, Applicants incorporate the responses to the previous Office Action here.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 1-31 as amended are in condition for allowance, and request allowance of these claims.

Please apply \$460 for a 2-month extension of time and any other charges or any credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

6/17/08



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